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इस भाग में भिन्न पृष्ठ संख्या दी जाती है कि यह अलग संकलन के रूप में रखा जा सके।
Separate paging is given to this Part in order that it may be filed as a separate compilation.

RAJYA SABHA

The following Bill was introduced in the Rajya Sabha on the 8th December, 1998:—

BILL No. XL OF 1998

A Bill further to amend the North-Eastern Council Act, 1971.

BE it enacted by Parliament in the Forty-ninth Year of the Republic of India as follows:—

1. (1) This Act may be called the North-Eastern Council (Amendment) Act, 1998.

Short title and
commencement.

(2) It shall come into force on such date as the Central Government may, by notification in the Official Gazette, appoint.

84 of 1971.

Amendment of
section 2.

2. In section 2 of the North-Eastern Council Act, 1971 (hereinafter referred to as the principal Act), in clause (b), for the words "Nagaland and Tripura", the words "Nagaland, Sikkim and Tripura" shall be substituted.

Amendment of
section 3.

3. In section 3 of the principal Act, for sub-section (1), the following sub-section shall be substituted, namely:—

"(1) There shall be a Council to be called the North-Eastern Council which shall consist of the following members, namely:—

(a) the Chief Ministers of the States of Arunachal Pradesh, Assam, Manipur, Meghalaya, Mizoram, Nagaland, Sikkim and Tripura:

Provided that, if there is no Council of Ministers in any State referred to in clause (a), the Governor of that State shall represent such State in the Council for so long as there is no Council of Ministers, in such State;

(b) three members to be nominated by the President."

Amendment of
section 4.

4. In section 4 of the principal Act,—

(a) for sub-sections (1) and (2), the following sub-sections shall be substituted, namely:—

"(1) The Council shall function as a regional planning body for the north-eastern area.

(2) While formulating the regional plans for the north-eastern area, the Council shall give priority to schemes and projects which will benefit two or more States:

Provided that in case of Sikkim, the Council shall formulate specific projects and schemes for that State including the review of implementation of such projects and schemes.

(2A) No scheme shall be placed before the Council unless it has been recommended by a screening committee consisting of the following:—

(i) Secretary of the Council — Chairperson;

(ii) Planning Secretaries of the States of the north-eastern area — Members.";

(b) in sub-section (3), clause (c) shall be omitted;

(c) after sub-section (4), the following sub-section shall be inserted, namely:—

"(5) The Council shall have such power as may be delegated to it by the Central Government.".

STATEMENT OF OBJECTS AND REASONS

Under the North-Eastern Council Act, 1971, the North-Eastern Council was set up as an advisory body. The functions of the Council, *inter alia*, include discussion of matters of mutual interest of north-eastern States and giving advise thereon to the Union or any member State; to review implementation of the projects and schemes being part of the regional plan for the development of member States and to look after the maintenance of security and public order in those States. The Council presently consists of the Governors as well as the Chief Ministers of the seven North-Eastern States, namely, Arunachal Pradesh, Assam, Manipur, Meghalaya, Mizoram, Nagaland and Tripura. One of the Members of the Council is nominated by the President of India as the Chairman of the Council.

2. The North-Eastern States have been demanding restructuring of the Council so as to make it more effective. Therefore, it is proposed to amend the North-Eastern Council Act, 1971.

3. The main features of the proposed amendments are as follows:—

- (i) inclusion of Sikkim as one of the members of the Council;
- (ii) Governors, who are the constitutional heads, shall cease to be members of the Council;
- (iii) nomination of three members to the Council by the President of India;
- (iv) the Council shall function as a regional planning body for the north-eastern area and shall have such powers as may be delegated to it by the Central Government;
- (v) while formulating regional plans, the Council shall give priority to schemes and projects benefiting two or more States. However, Council shall formulate and review the implementation of specific projects and schemes for Sikkim;
- (vi) no scheme shall be placed before the Council unless it has been recommended by a screening committee consisting of the Secretary of the Council as Chairperson and the Planning Secretaries of the States of the north-eastern area as members. This provision is intended to ensure that the schemes selected by the Council for implementation have a regional character and reflect the needs of the member States of the Council.

4. The Bill seeks to achieve the above objects.

L.K. ADVANI

R.C. TRIPATHI,
Secretary-General.

